

Jean Sawicki M.A.
11 B Sycamore Drive
Storrs, CT 06268

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Testimony on behalf of **House Bill 5372, An Act Concerning Dyslexia Instruction Offered in Teacher Preparation Programs**

My name is Jean Sawicki and I live in Storrs, Connecticut. I support HB 5372 regarding teacher preparation for teaching students with dyslexia.

Having taught individuals of all ages who are dyslexic and over many years, I know implicitly that I was not prepared in my college coursework to provide proper instruction for students with dyslexia. After hundreds of hours of study at Massachusetts General Hospital's Reading Disability Unit, I understood why I was unprepared before. These students have a language disability that requires specialized training to understand the kind of treatment/instruction they would need in order to learn to read at a level commensurate with their intelligence.

There are instances now where teachers are trying to provide instruction to students with dyslexia but find that their students are not progressing. This is due to the teacher's lack of precise training that is necessary. Their students lose confidence in themselves and take the failure personally. We often lose these students or watch them underperform due to no fault of their own.

Universities must be able to provide this training to all teachers, not only to help students with dyslexia, but the very method of instruction will help all children learn to read and spell better.

Please pass HB 5372.

Thank you,

Jean Sawicki